(b) and (c) There are 905 retail outlets, which remain open for 24 hours, in the State of Uttar Pradesh. Out of these, 66 retail outlets are managed by women.

Revenue to ONGC from overseas projects

1334. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC propose to earn $1,250 million from overseas operations during Tenth Five Year Plan as reported in the Times of India dated the 18th December, 2002;

(b) if so, the details of the projects proposed to be undertaken abroad; and

(c) the total foreign exchange so far earned in the oilfield during the Ninth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) ONGC-Videsh Limited (OVL), a wholly subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) set up for Exploration and Production (E&P) activities overseas, has envisaged foreign exchange inflow of about US $ 1,260 million (Rs. 6,174 crore approximately) during the Tenth Five Year Plan period from its projects in offshore Vietnam and Sakhalin, Russia besides the projects in countries like Algeria, Iraq and Venezuela expected to materialize in this period.

(c) During the Ninth Plan period, foreign exchange earnings of OVL were Rs. 26.46 crore from its Vietnam Project, and of ONGC were Rs. 349.86 crore on account of its naptha export, drilling contracts in Bangladesh and other miscellaneous income.

Expenditure on offshore supply vehicles

1335. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total annual expenditure on offshore supply vehicles during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the CAG in its Report has reported that there is a lot of mismanagement of OSVs;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the ONGC in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) The annual expenditure on Offshore Supply Vessels (OSVs) by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) during the last three years is as under:-

Year	Expenditure (Rs. in crores)
1999-2000	147.12
2000-01	169.07
2001-02	169.27

(b) to (c) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) in their Report dated 13th March, 2002, for the year ended March, 2001, reviewed Marine Logistics Support Services of ONGC and commented, *inter alia*, about the following:—

(1) Deployment of OSVs on standby duty.

(2) Trips of OSVs on supply duty and cargo handling.

(3) Transportation of potable water to Platforms and Rigs.

(4) Non-availability of OSVs on account of downtime.

However, ONGC in their response, communicated by this Ministry of C&AG on 31.1.2002, on the relevant points of the draft Audit Review relating to ONGC dated 10.10.2001 have given the operational background and brought out, *inter alia*, that engagement and deployment of OSVs did not suffer from any major infirmity and that there was no loss as such caused to ONGC.

(d) The following steps were taken by ONGC further:-

- Based upon the finding of a safety audit conducted by ONGC during 2001, O&M contract of some of the OSVs were terminated. Subsequently, 16 OSVs were handed over to Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. (SCI).

- For the balance 15 OSVs, ONGC has invited Global tender with improved bidding conditions to bring in professionally competent and financially sound bidders.
- To improve overall health and performance of the aging fleet, ONGC has undertaken major repairs/revamping through different O&M operators, shipyards and SCI.
- Seaforth Maritime, a Halliburton Group Company, engaged to study Marine Logistics Support Services has submitted its report. ONGC is seized of various suggestions of the Consultant pertaining to communication, management, deployment of OSVs and cost control for further improvement of the system.

Black-marketing of kerosene

1336. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that black marketing of kerosene meant for PDS generate black-money to the tune of Rs. 5,000 crore annually; and

(b) whether Government have any plan to bring about price parity of diesel and kerosene?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) No such specific instance has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) With the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector effective 1st April, 2002, the pricing of diesel has been decontrolled. However, PDS kerosene is a subsidised product, the subsidy of which will be phased out in the next three to five years.

Oil and gas blocks awarded for exploration

1337. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of oil and gas blocks which have been awarded for exploration;

(b) whether there is any agency to monitor the progress of the oil and gas blocks; and